



FAMILY FIRST



Steve Fielding **Family First** Senator for Victoria

MEDIA RELEASE

SF/286. Sunday March 30, 2008

STOP THE \$300 MILLION PETROL RIP OFF **Rudd Government not serious about lower petrol prices**

The Rudd government has been in power for 127 days and still refuses to commit to a national Fuel Watch scheme that could save motorists 2 cents a litre or more.

"Prime Minister Kevin Rudd could save families a staggering \$300 million a year at the bowser by adopting a national Fuel Watch scheme," Family First leader Steve Fielding said.

"After 127 days in government, if Mr Rudd was serious about lower petrol prices he would have already committed to a national Fuel Watch scheme."

"Mr Rudd should have used last weeks COAG meeting to get some real action on lower petrol prices by gaining agreement with all the States to copy Western Australia's Fuel Watch scheme. If lower petrol prices were a real priority then Mr Rudd would have gained agreement on a national Fuel Watch scheme at COAG."

"Australian Competition and Consumer Commission analysis published in its *Petrol Prices and Australian Consumers* report in December last year found that motorists in Western Australia have saved 2 cents a litre from the Fuel Watch scheme," Senator Fielding said. "I think we would all agree the ACCC is pretty independent."

"Under Fuel Watch petrol retailers are required by 2pm to give notice of the prices that will apply for 24 hours from 6am the next day. They are also required to publicise the price of petrol on a website and in the media."

"Any reduction in petrol prices will help Australian families struggling to make ends meet. Families in the outer suburbs and regions have been hardest hit by skyrocketing petrol prices. Lower income and first homebuyers tend to live in the outer suburbs where housing is cheaper. But poor public transport means they depend on their cars, which means they suffer more from punishing petrol prices."

"If Mr Rudd is genuinely concerned about financial strain on household budgets that are already stretched, he would immediately implement this new plan nationally for the benefit of all Australian families."

For media enquiries phone 0409 550 446

www.stevefielding.com.au